



Prepared in cooperation with the Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission

# U.S. Geological Survey Georgia Water Science Center and Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission Cooperative Water Program—Summary of Activities, July 2005 through June 2006



U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2006-1294

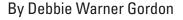
maintaining the data needed, and c including suggestions for reducing	lection of information is estimated to completing and reviewing the collect this burden, to Washington Headqu uld be aware that notwithstanding ar DMB control number.	ion of information. Send comments arters Services, Directorate for Infor	regarding this burden estimate mation Operations and Reports	or any other aspect of the 1215 Jefferson Davis	is collection of information, Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington		
1. REPORT DATE <b>2006</b>		2. REPORT TYPE <b>N/A</b>					
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE					5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
U.S. Geological Survey Georgia Water Science Center and Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission Cooperative Water ProgramSummary of Activities, July 2005 Through Jun 2006					5b. GRANT NUMBER		
					5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S)					5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
					5e. TASK NUMBER		
					5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)  U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240					8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)					10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)		
					11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT  Approved for public release, distribution unlimited							
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NO <b>The original docum</b>	otes nent contains color i	mages.					
14. ABSTRACT							
15. SUBJECT TERMS							
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:  17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT					19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON		
a. REPORT <b>unclassified</b>	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified	SAR	OF PAGES 44	RESI ONSIBLE I ERSON		

**Report Documentation Page** 

Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188

Cover photograph: U.S. Geological Survey employee collecting water-level measurement at center pivot well in Dougherty County, Georgia.

# U.S. Geological Survey Georgia Water Science Center and Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission Cooperative Water Program—Summary of Activities, July 2005 through June 2006



Prepared in cooperation with
Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission

U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2006-1294

U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey

# **U.S. Department of the Interior** DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Secretary

# U.S. Geological Survey P. Patrick Leahy, Acting Director

U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia: 2006

This report is a Web-only publication: pubs.water.usgs.gov/ofr2006-1294

For more information about the USGS and its products:

Telephone: 1-888-ASK-USGS

World Wide Web: http://www.usgs.gov/

Any use of trade, product, or firm names in this publication is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Although this report is in the public domain, permission must be secured from the individual copyright owners to reproduce any copyrighted materials contained within this report.

#### Suggested citation:

Gordon, Debbie Warner, 2006, U.S. Geological Survey Georgia Water Science Center and Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission Cooperatie Water Program—Summary of Activities, July 2005 through June 2006: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2006-1294, 41 p.

## **Contents**

Introduci Coopera Related S Progress Albany V Hydrolog Gro Sur Gro Additiona Reference	1         tion
Figure	es
1–3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Maps Showing—  1. Recorder wells and stream sites in the Albany area, Georgia
Table	s
1.	Recorder wells in the Albany area, Georgia4

## **Datum**

Vertical coordinate information is referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1929 (NAVD 29).

Horizontal coordinate information is referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Historical data collected and stored as North American Datum of 1927 have been converted to NAD 83 for this publication.

# U.S. Geological Survey Georgia Water Science Center and Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission Cooperative Water Program—Summary of Activities, July 2005 through June 2006

By Debbie Warner Gordon

#### **Abstract**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been working with the Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission to monitor ground-water quality and availability since 1977. This report presents the findings for July 2005 through June 2006 and summarizes the ground-water and surface-water conditions for 2005. Water levels in 14 wells were continuously monitored in Dougherty County, Georgia. Water levels in 12 of those wells were above normal, one was normal, and one was below normal. Ground-water samples collected from the Upper Floridan aquifer indicate that nitrate levels have increased in 13 wells and decreased in two wells from a year earlier. A sample also was collected from the Flint River. A trilinear diagram showing the percent composition of selected major cations and anions indicates that the ground-water quality of the Upper Floridan aquifer at the Albany wellfield is distinctly different from the water quality of the Flint River. To improve the understanding of the ground-water flow system and nitrate movement in the Upper Floridan aquifer, the USGS is developing a groundwater flow model in the southwest Albany area, Georgia.

## Introduction

Long-term, heavy pumping from the Claiborne, Clayton, and upper Cretaceous (Providence) aquifers, which underlie the Upper Floridan aquifer, has resulted in significant water-level declines in the deeper aquifers in the Albany area in Dougherty County, Georgia. These declines have raised concern about meeting increasing demands for potable water supply with the deep aquifers. To meet increasing demands, the Albany Water, Gas, and Light (WGL) Commission has developed a large wellfield near Albany. The supply wells primarily tap the Upper Floridan aquifer, a highly productive and porous limestone aquifer, which is the uppermost reliable ground-water source in this area. Because of the karstic

landscape and local recharge to the aquifer, water quality may be affected by local and regional land use. To address concerns about the quality and availability of ground water in the Albany area, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and WGL initiated a cooperative water program during 1977.

Analysis of nitrate in a water sample collected from a school supply well located southwest of Albany indicated concentrations exceeded the 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) maximum contaminant level (MCL) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000a). Concern about nitrate contamination prompted the Dougherty County Health Department to sample more than 700 existing wells (including all residential wells near the school) for nitrates during 1997. Water from 12 percent of these wells had nitrate concentrations above the MCL (Susan Reyher, Dougherty County Health Department, oral commun., 1999). Each of the contaminated wells is completed in the Upper Floridan aquifer, which supplies water for most of the domestic and irrigation wells in the southwest Albany area.

## **Cooperative Water Program**

The Federal-State Cooperative Water Program (CWP) is a partnership between the USGS and State and local agencies that provides information that forms the foundation for many of the Nation's water-resources management and planning activities. In addition, the information may function as an early warning for emerging water problems. Having the USGS involved results in consistent techniques of data collection and archiving, with the information stored in a common database readily available to all. The knowledge gained in the studies is published and added to the growing body of information about the hydrology of the region or area.

The objectives of the Albany CWP are to (1) augment the current level of understanding of the hydrogeologic framework of the Upper Floridan aquifer in the Albany area of

2

southwestern Georgia, (2) monitor water-level fluctuations in the four aquifers used in the area and relate water-level trends to changes in climatic conditions and pumping patterns, and (3) evaluate and monitor water quality in the Upper Floridan aquifer as pumping patterns and land-use activities change. These objectives are being met by the following tasks:

- Water-quality monitoring near the southwestern Albany-area wellfield.
- Ground-water-level monitoring—operation and maintenance of 14 continuous water-level monitoring wells in four aquifers and measurement of water levels in about 70 wells annually (during Fall).
- Maintaining USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) database, which includes groundwater, surface-water, and water-quality data.
- Ground-water-flow modeling in the Upper Floridan aquifer to simulate nitrate migration and travel times.

This annual summary presents an overview of significant accomplishments and technical findings during July 2005 through June 2006 and plans for fiscal year 2007. Also included is an overview of hydrologic conditions during 2005 that includes summaries of ground-and surface-water conditions, and a summary of water-quality data collected and/or analyzed in 2005–06. Hydrographs of water levels and statistics from selected wells are presented in the Appendix.

#### **Related Studies**

During July 2005 through June 2006, the USGS was involved in the lower Apalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint (ACF) River Basin ground-water modeling study in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (GaEPD). The major objective of that study was to develop a transient finite-element model of ground-water flow to simulate the impact of agricultural pumping on stream-aquifer interaction. Two scientific investigation reports were published from that study: Torak and Painter, 2006 and Jones and Torak, in press.

## **Progress during Fiscal Year 2006**

During fiscal year 2006 (FY06), activities conducted for this program include:

Continued ground-water-level monitoring. The USGS
has been maintaining continuous water-level recorders on 24 wells, 14 of which are funded by the Albany
CWP and 10 of which are funded by other projects.

Water levels in five additional wells are measured monthly (fig. 1, table 1). Summaries of local water-resources conditions are published biannually in the USGS report, "Ground-water conditions and studies in Georgia" and annually in the USGS report "Water-resources data for Georgia." See section "Ground-Water Conditions" and the Appendix for ground-water-level hydrographs and statistics for selected wells. All data are available on the Web at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/dv?referred\_module=gw (accessed June 30, 2006).

- Constructed water-level (potentiometric-surface) map for the Upper Floridan aquifer near the new wellfield. Water-level measurements were collected from 70 wells in the southwest Albany area during October 4–6, 2005, and a water-level map was constructed (fig. 2). The map indicates that water generally flows from northwest to southeast near the wellfield. No cone of depression is visible at the wellfield. All data are available on the Web at <a href="http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/dv?referred\_module=gw">http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/dv?referred\_module=gw</a> (accessed June 30, 2006).
- Updated annual potentiometric-surface maps for 1998 through 2005. The Dougherty County Engineering Department surveyed the USGS Albany wellfield-area well network to facilitate construction of more accurate potentiometric-surface maps. The revised maps will provide more accurate input data for the ground-water flow model. The maps will be published in the next "Ground-water conditions and studies in Georgia" biannual report.
- · Continued water-quality monitoring.
  - Water samples were collected from 17 wells in the southwest Albany area, November 8–11, 2005, and were analyzed for cations, anions, and nutrients. Nitrate values are presented in figure 3.
  - To compare the water-quality characteristics of ground water and surface water, a sample was collected from the Flint River on November 10, 2005. A trilinear diagram showing the percent composition of selected major cations and anions is presented in figure 4.
- Continued maintenance of Albany area hydrologic databases. The USGS continued updates to the National Water Information System database, including ground-water-level and water-quality data and well site information. All data are available on the Web at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/dv?referred\_ module=gw (accessed June 30, 2006).

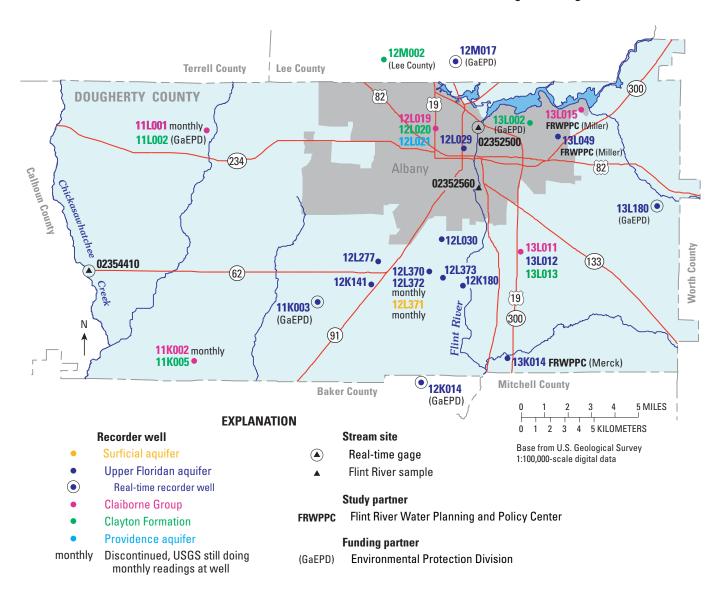


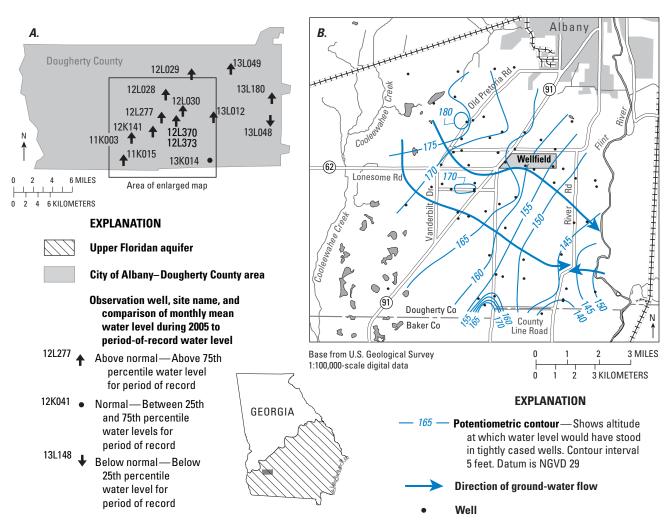
Figure 1. Recorder wells and stream sites in the Albany area, Georgia.

#### 4 USGS Georgia Water Science Center and Albany WGL Commission Water Program

 Table 1.
 Recorder well in the Albany area, Georiga.

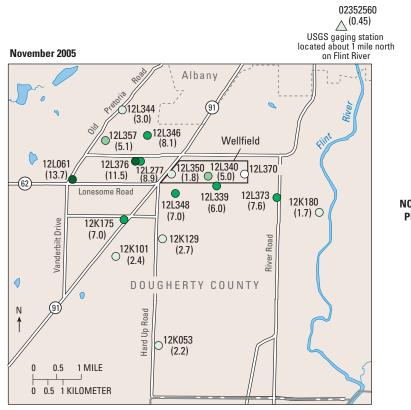
USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; GaEPD, Georgia Environmental Protection Agency; WGL, Water, Gas, and Light; FLWPPC, Flint River Water Planning and Policy Center; do, ditto]

County	Well number	Well name	Project/cooperator
		Water levels continuously m	nonitored
		Claiborne aquifer	
Dougherty	12L019	USGS TW 5	Albany WGL
do.	13L011	USGS TW 2	do.
do.	13L015	Turner 2	FRWPPC (Miller Brewing Company)
		Clayton aquifer	
Dougherty	11K005	USGS TW 12	Albany WGL
do.	11L002	DNR Albany Nursery	USGS (GaEPD)
do.	12L020	USGS TW 6	Albany WGL
do.	13L002	WGL, Turner City 2	USGS (GaEPD)
do.	13L013	USGS TW 7	Albany WGL
Lee	12M002	USGS TW 9	Lee County
		Providence aquifer	
Dougherty	12L021	USGS TW 10	Albany WGL
		Upper Floridan aquif	er
Baker	12K014	Blue Springs OW	USGS (GaEPD)
Dougherty	11K003	Nilo TW North	USGS (GaEPD)
do.	12K141	Albany WGL A750 Lower	Albany WGL
do.	12K180	EPD MW-2	do.
do.	12L029	USGS TW 13	do.
do.	12L030	USGS TW 16	do.
do.	12L277	Albany WGL	do.
do.	12L370	Albany WGL	do.
do.	12L373	EPD MW-1	do.
do.	13K014	USGS TW 15	FLWPPC (Merck & Company)
do.	13L012	USGS TW 3	Albany WGL
do.	13L049	Turner 1	FRWPPC (Miller Brewing Company)
do.	13L180	MCLB Corehole 3 Lower Ocala	USGS (GaEPD)
Lee	12M017	USGS TW 19	USGS
		Water levels measured m	onthly
		Clairborne aquifer	
Dougherty	11K002	USGS TW 11	Albany WGL
do.	11L001	USGS TW 4	do.
		Surficial aquifer	
Dougherty	12L371	Albany WGL	Albany WGL
do.	12L376	Albany WGL	do.
		Upper Floridan aquif	er
Doughtery	12L372	Albany WGL	Albany WGL
		·	



Site County		Other identifier			
11K003	Dougherty	Nilo test well, north			
11K015	Dougherty	U.S. Geological Survey, test well 14			
12K141	Dougherty	Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission, A750			
12L028	Dougherty	VWM			
12L029	Dougherty	U.S. Geological Survey, test well 13			
12L030	Dougherty	U.S. Geological Survey, test well 16			
12L277	Dougherty	Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission, test well			
12L370	Dougherty	Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission, MW-100l			
12L373	Dougherty	Albany Water, Gas, and Light Commission, MW-1001			
13K014	Dougherty	U.S. Geological Survey, test well 15			
13L012	Dougherty	U.S. Geological Survey, test well 3			
13L048	Dougherty	U.S. Geological Survey, test well 17			
13L049	Dougherty	Miller Ammo Supply			
13L180	Dougherty	Marine Corps Logistic Base, core hole 3			

**Figure 2.** (A) Observation wells completed in the Upper Floridan aquifer, Albany area (arrows show locations where water levels were below or above normal for the Upper Floridan aquifer during 2005); and (B) potentiometric contours of the Upper Floridan aquifer, southwestern Albany area, October 2005.



GEORGIA Albany **EXPLANATION** NO<sub>3</sub> AS N CONCENTRATION, IN MILLIGRAMS **PER LITER, NOVEMBER 2005** Well and site name (concentration) ○ 12L370 No data O 12L344 Less than 4 (3.0)12L340 4 to 6 (5.0)12L346 6 to 10 (8.1)12L276 Greater than 10 (11.5)Surface-water site and number

(concentration)

02352560 (0.45)

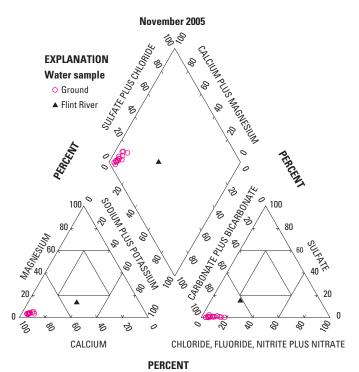
Base from U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000-scale digital data

Site name	Sept 1998 NO <sub>3</sub> -N in mg/L	April 1999 NO <sub>3</sub> -N, in mg/L	April 2001 NO <sub>2</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub> as N in mg/L	Nov 2001 Dissolved NO <sub>2</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub> as N	Nov 2002 NO <sub>3</sub> -N in mg/L	May 2003 NO <sub>3</sub> -N in mg/L	Nov 2003 NO <sub>3</sub> -N in mg/L	Nov 2004 NO <sub>3</sub> -N in mg/L	Nov 2005 NO <sub>3</sub> -N in mg/L
12K053	_	_	_	_	2.0	_	2.2	1.9	2.2
12K101	1.8	1.9	_	2.2	2.1	_	2.1	2.0	2.4
12K129	_	_	_	3.1	2.9	_	2.9	2.8	2.7
12K175	3.8	5.7	5.0	5.9	5.4	_	6.1	5.5	7.0
12K180	_	_	_	_	1. 56	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.7
12L061	11	12	12	12	12.5	_	13.4	13.1	13.7
12L277	7.5	6.9	6.5	8.0	6.3	9.0	8.2	8.4	8.9
12L339	5.9	5.4	_	5.0	_	_	_	_	6.0
12L340	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	4.7	5.0
12L344	6.0	5.1	2.7	1.6	1.7	_	1.9	2.1	3.0
12L346	_	_	_	_	_	_	7.2	6.6	8.1
12L348	_	6.5	6.4	7.1	6.8	_	6.9	6.6	7.0
12L350	3.0	2.9	_	4.8	5.5	_	2.6	2.0	1.8
12L357	5.9	3.1	_	2.0	_	_	_	3.5	5.1
12L370	_	_	_	_	_	_	7.1	_	_
12L373	_	_	_	7.2	6.6	8.6	7.5	7.2	7.6
12L376	_	_	_	_	6.5	8.8	8.3	9.3	11.5
<sup>1</sup> 02352560	_	_	_	_	_	0.4	0.45	0.41	0.45

[NO<sub>3</sub>-N, nitrate as nitrogen; NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub> as N, nitrate plus nitrate as nitrogen; mg/L, milligrams per liter:—, no data]

Figure 3. Location of wells and nitrate concentration in the southwestern Albany area, Georgia, November 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>River sample



**Figure 4.** Trilinear diagram showing water quality of the Upper Floridan aquifer and Flint River at Albany, Georgia, November 10, 2005.

- Began Albany wellfield area ground-water-flow model. Data was put into the model. The model was run using the original model area and grid spacing. The model area was expanded east of the Flint River and the grid spacing was refined to better capture flow in the Albany wellfield area. The new area and grid spacing is shown in figure 5. Two additional layers were added to the model to account for the surficial aquifer and the confining layer separating the surficial and Upper Floridan aquifers (fig. 6). See section on Albany wellfield area flow model for more details.
- Continued to map sinkholes at the wellfield. Gary Morefield (of WGL) provided location of two sinkholes that formed during 2005 (one on April 6, 2005, and one on August 23, 2005). These sinkholes were plotted on a map of the wellfield (fig. 7).
- **Updated Albany area Web site**. The Web site was updated with links to the National Water Information System Web site for Georgia (NWISWEB) and the Georgia Water Information Network (GWIN) Web site. The Web site is located at <a href="http://ga.water.usgs.gov/projects/albany.html">http://ga.water.usgs.gov/projects/albany.html</a>.

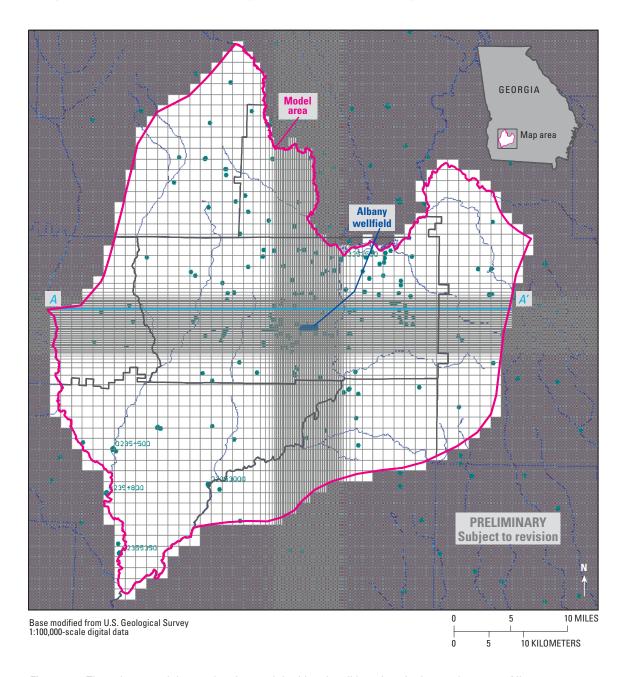
## **Albany Wellfield-Area Flow Model**

To improve the understanding of the ground-water flow system and nitrate movement in the Upper Floridan aquifer, the USGS is developing a ground-water flow model in the wellfield area. Although ground-water-flow models have been previously developed in southwest Georgia, these models are regional in scope and need to be refined to include greater detail in the wellfield area. The USGS finite-difference ground-water flow simulator, MODFLOW-2000 (Harbaugh and others, 2000) is being used for modeling.

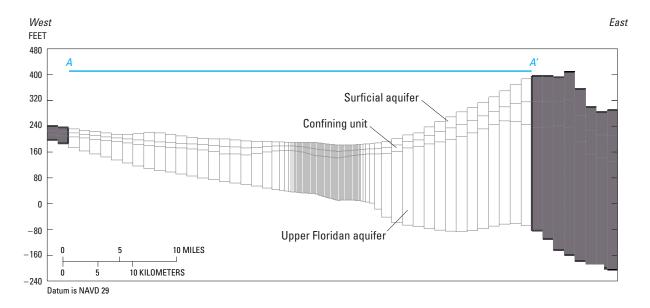
Initially, a single-layer flow model was developed in the wellfield area using existing data. This preliminary model had a grid spacing of 500 by 500 feet (ft) and did not extend east of the Flint River. Running several simulations with this model indicated that because it was very generalized, it did not adequately represent the ground-water flow in the area. Three layers would be necessary to estimate ground-water flow and travel times for nitrate migration and the model boundary must extend east of the Flint River to simulate flow to (or from) the river adequately.

The three-layer model includes the surficial aquifer, the confining unit that separates the surficial and Upper Floridan aguifers, and the Upper Floridan aguifer. The model includes the area east of the Flint River, and a grid spacing that gradually increases from 500 by 500 ft around the wellfield to 5,000 by 5,000 ft outside of the wellfield area (fig. 5). This model includes water-level, water-quality, and aquifer-parameter data from the wellfield area that have not been used in previous models. The model is being calibrated to October 1999 conditions using ground-water-level data, because October 1999 was a drought period. The calibrated model will be used to determine ground-water flowpaths and potential movement of nitrate-contaminated water. Predictive simulations using a variety of pumping and boundary conditions will be used to assess potential pathways for nitrate migration and the potential for the Flint River to contribute water to the wellfield.

Accurate information on ground-water levels and the depth and thickness of hydrogeologic units is important for ground-water model development. Improved accuracy of land-surface altitudes was provided through a field survey conducted by the Dougherty County Engineering Department. These data were used to compute altitudes of the tops of hydrogeologic units and ground-water levels. An east-west cross section showing model layers was prepared based on these data (fig. 6).



**Figure 5.** Three-layer model area showing model grid and well locations in the southwestern Albany area, Georgia (grid spacing is 500 by 500 feet in the center around the Albany wellfield, then gradually increases to 5,000 by 5,000 feet in the rest of the model area).



**Figure 6.** Cross section through the model from west to east showing the three model layers in the southwestern Albany area, Georgia.

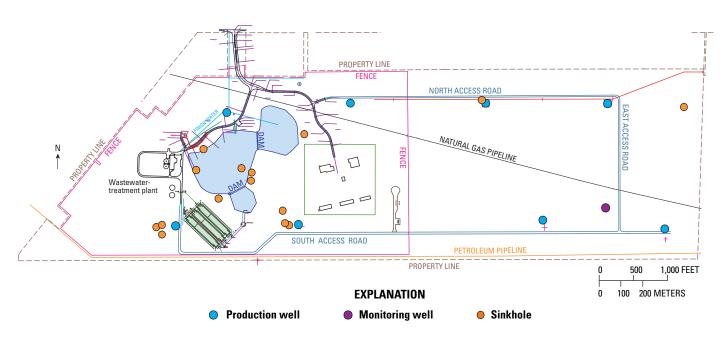


Figure 7. Diagram of Albany wellfield showing location of wells and sinkholes in the southwestern Albany area, Georgia.

## Hydrologic and Water-Quality Monitoring

The Hydrology and water quality of the area were monitored throughout the year. The ground-water conditions, surface-water conditions, and water quality are described below.

#### **Ground-Water Conditions, 2005**

Ground-water levels in the Albany area are continuously monitored in 14 wells as part of the WGL cooperative study and in 10 additional wells in conjunction with other projects (fig. 1, table 1). Water levels are measured in an additional five wells on a monthly basis. All data are available on the Web at <a href="http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/dv?referred\_module=gw">http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/dv?referred\_module=gw</a> (accessed June 30, 2006). Of the 29 monitoring wells, 15 are completed in the Upper Floridan aquifer, five in the Claiborne aquifer, six in the Clayton aquifer, one in the Providence aquifer, and two in the surficial aquifer (fig. 1, table 1). Hydrographs showing annual daily mean (2005) water levels, monthly water level statistics, and monthly mean water levels for the period of record in selected wells are shown in the Appendix.

Water-level measurements were collected from 70 wells in the southwest Albany area during October 4–6, 2005, and a potentiometric-surface map was constructed (fig. 2). The map indicates that water generally flowed from northwest to southeast and a cone of depression is not visible at the wellfield. Water levels in the Upper Floridan aquifer generally were above normal during 2005. Of the 14 wells continuously monitored in Dougherty County, water levels in eight were above normal and water levels in six were normal (fig. 2).

Hydrographs for selected wells are presented in the Appendix. Water levels in most of the wells show a rise starting during 2002 that continues through 2005. This rise is the result of the end of the drought for 1998 through 2002. Water levels in most of the wells in the Clayton and Claiborne aquifers have been declining since the late 1970s. During the past few years however, water levels have increased in some of these wells (wells 12M002 and 11L002, for example). Water levels in the Clayton aquifer are monitored in six wells in the Albany area (fig. 1, table 1). During 2005, water levels in two of these wells were above normal, three were normal, and one was below normal (Appendix). A record high water level was recorded in well 12L020 (Clayton aquifer) during January 2005. Water levels in the Claiborne aquifer are monitored in three wells (fig. 1, table 1), all of which were above normal during 2005 (Appendix). The water level in the Providence aquifer is measured in well 12L021 (fig. 1, table 1), the water level in this well was above normal for 2005.

#### **Surface-Water Conditions, 2005**

The Albany area contains two real-time streamgages (see Web site, http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/rt, accessed June 15, 2006). These gages are located on the Flint River at Albany (02352500) and Chickasawhatchee near Leary (02354410) (fig. 1). The Flint River gage at Albany was installed during 1901; the gage at Chickasawhatchee near Leary is newer, installed during May 2001. Stream stage and discharge data are shown for these sites on the Web site. Figure 8 presents daily discharge data for the Flint River at Albany for July 2005 through May 2006. The data show that discharge was above normal during the summer of 2005, then below normal for most of 2006, through May (fig. 8).

#### **Ground-Water Quality, 2005**

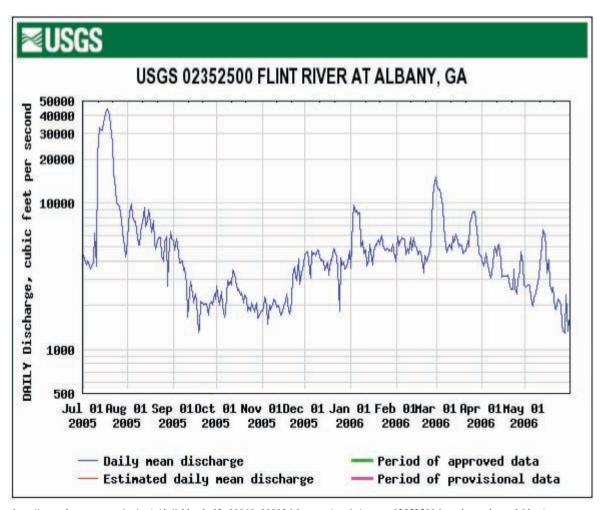
Water samples were collected from 16 wells in the southwest Albany area during November 8–11, 2005, and were analyzed for cations, anions, and nutrients (fig. 3). Of the 16 samples collected, two had nitrate as nitrogen concentration greater than the 10 mg/L MCL (well 12L061 completed in the Upper Floridan aquifer and 12L376 completed in the surficial aquifer). Since November 2004, nitrate levels have increased in 13 wells and decreased in two wells. The increased nitrate levels are probably related to increased recharge from rainfall in the summer and fall of 2005.

To compare the water-quality characteristics of ground water and surface water, a sample was collected from the Flint River on November 10, 2005. A trilinear diagram showing the percent composition of selected major cations and anions is presented in figure 4. This diagram shows that the ground-water quality of the Upper Floridan aquifer near the wellfield is distinctly different from the water quality of the Flint River.

## **Additional Data Needs**

Expanded monitoring and characterization of the geologic and hydrologic properties of the surficial aquifer would facilitate understanding of the nitrate contamination problem and provide data necessary for model development. During fiscal years 2005 and 2006, monthly water levels were collected from the surficial aquifer from two wells. The USGS proposes collecting additional water-quality and water-level data from the surficial aquifer. Specifically, shallow wells could be drilled in and near the wellfield to provide improved characterization of the surficial aquifer and underlying confining unit. These wells would facilitate:

- Collection of borehole geophysical logs in completed boreholes,
- Conducting aquifer tests in selected wells to determine hydraulic properties of the surficial aquifer,



 $http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/dv/?dd\_cd=02\_00060\_00003\&format=img\&site\_no=02352500\&set\_logscale\_y=1\&begin\_date=20050701\&end\_date=20060531$ 

Figure 8. Daily discharge (cubic feet per second) for the Flint River at Albany, Georgia, July 2005 through May 2006.

- Collection of water samples for analysis of nitrate on a periodic basis,
- Collection of ground-water levels on a periodic basis, and
- Installation of continuous ground-water-level recorders in several of the new wells.

## **References Cited**

Harbaugh, A.W., Banta, E.R., Hill, M.C., and McDonald, M.G., 2000, MODFLOW-2000, The U.S. Geological Survey modular ground-water model—User Guide to modularization concepts and the ground-water flow process: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 00-92, 121 p.

- Jones, L.E., and Torak, L.J., in press, Simulated effects of seasonal ground-water pumpage for irrigation on hydrologic conditions in the lower Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin, southwestern Georgia and parts of Alabama and Florida: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5234.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000a, Maximum contaminant levels (Subpart B of part 141, National Primary Drinking-water Regulations): U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, parts 100–149, revised as of July 1, 2000, p. 334–560.
- Torak, L.J., Painter, J.A., 2006, Geohydrology of the lower Apalachicola—Chattahoochee—Flint River Basin, southwestern Georgia, northwestern Floridan, and southeastern Alabama: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5070, 73 p.

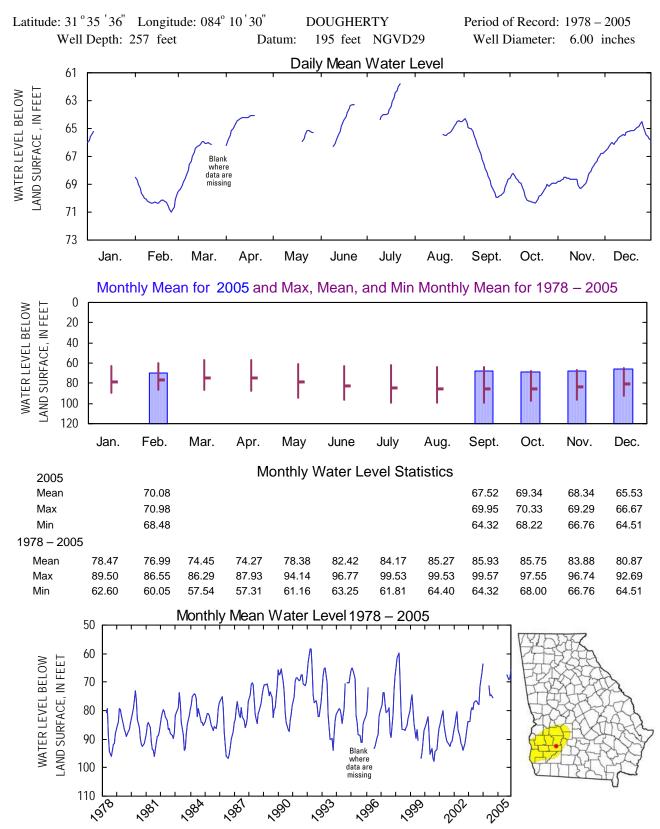
# Appendix. Ground-Water Level Hydrographs and Statistics for Selected Wells, 2005

In this appendix, max means maximum and min means minimum.



#### 313534084103001

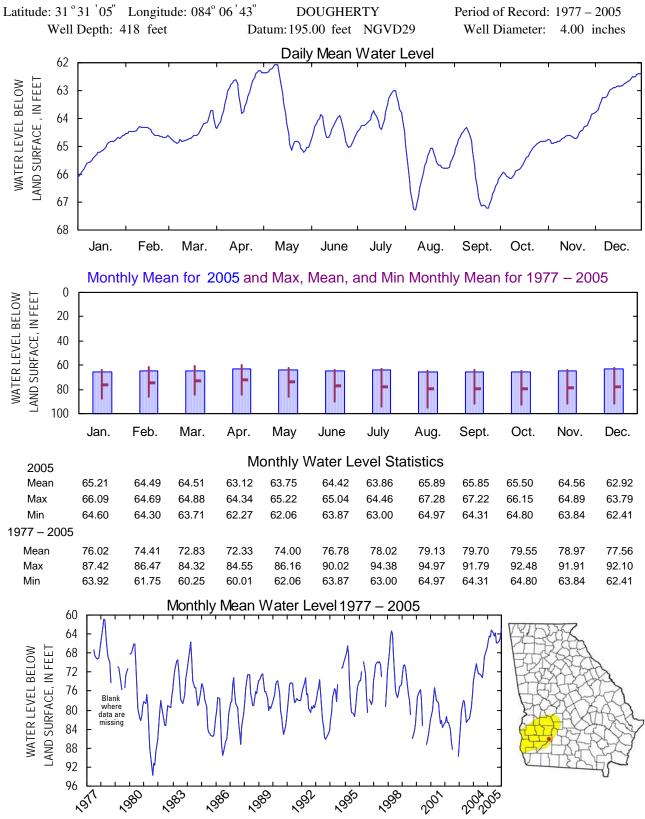
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 313105084064301

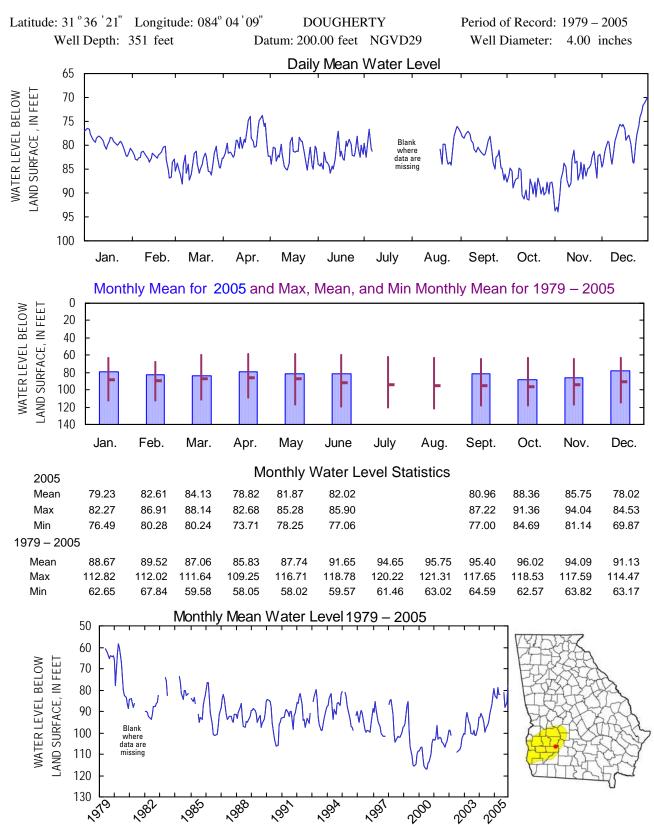
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 313625084041501

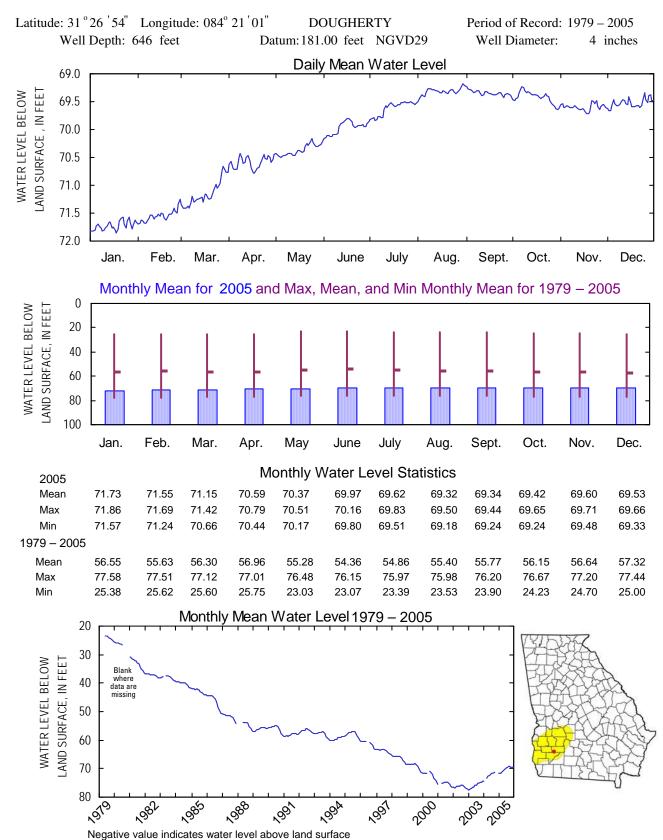
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 312654084210103

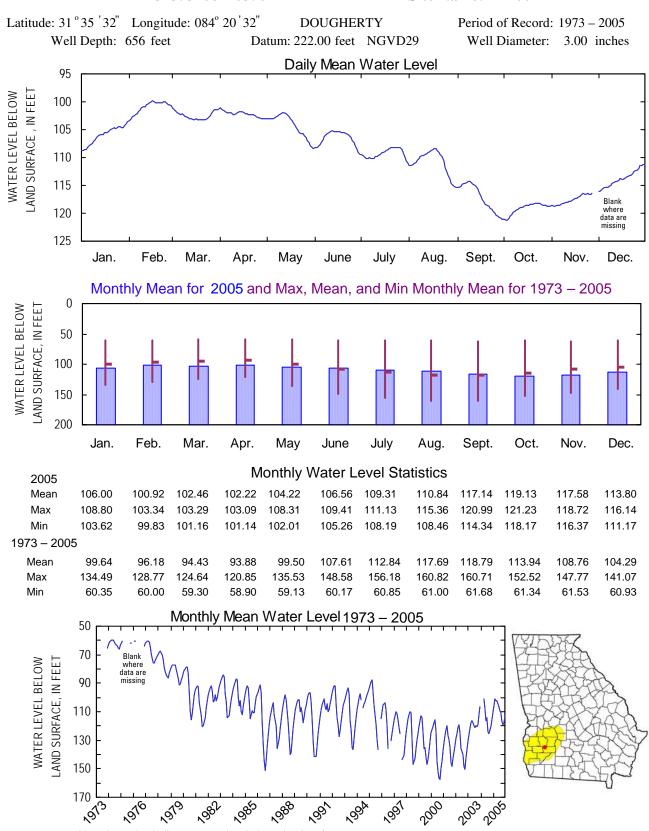
Site Name: 11K005





#### 313532084203501

Negative value indicates water level above land surface





313534084103002

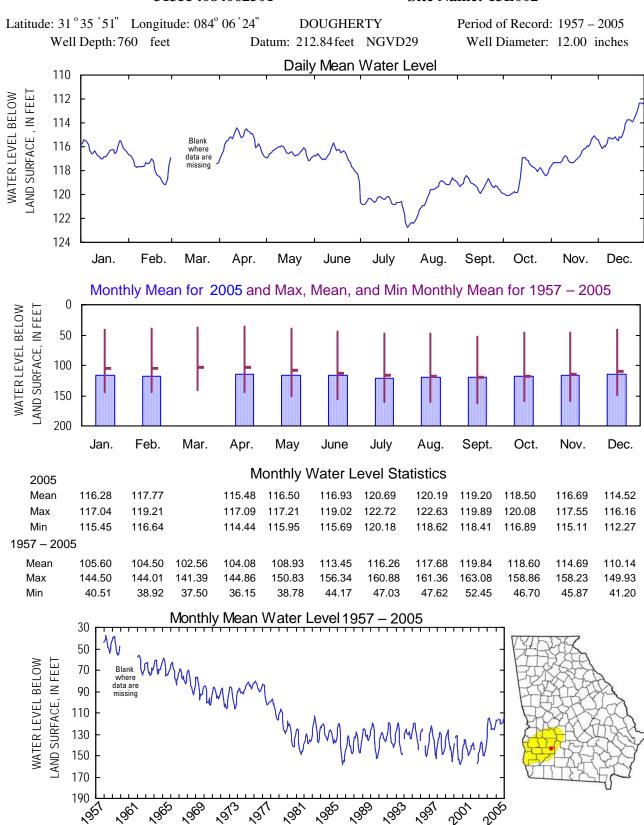
Negative value indicates water level above land surface

Site Name: 12L020 Latitude: 31°35 '35" Longitude: 084° 10 '30" **DOUGHERTY** Period of Record: 1978 - 2005 Well Depth: 690 feet Datum: 195.00 feet NGVD29 Well Diameter: 3.00 inches Daily Mean Water Level 110 AND SURFACE, IN FEET WATER LEVEL BELOW 115 120 125 130 135 Feb. Oct. Jan. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Nov. Dec. Monthly Mean for 2005 and Max, Mean, and Min Monthly Mean for 1978 - 2005 0 LAND SURFACE, IN FEET WATER LEVEL BELOW 50 100 150 200 Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Monthly Water Level Statistics 2005 Mean 115.41 121.88 121.50 119.37 119.30 123.63 117.77 120.72 126.59 123.28 122.27 127.98 120.52 123.84 Max 119.31 127.81 127.75 123.44 122.65 126.76 124.12 131.58 125.01 110.63 117.33 119.18 119.04 116.39 120.76 116.22 122.82 120.19 Min 117.05 117.21 121.33 1978 - 2005137.35 Mean 133.85 131.39 128.97 131.98 139.66 145.81 147.81 149.29 151.67 149.54 143.35 Max 153.57 152.86 149.42 152.75 170.41 173.74 180.74 178.15 177.64 173.42 169.63 161.15 100.59 101.95 103.22 116.45 112.56 116.39 119.69 116.22 117.21 120.30 108.14 Min 114.48 Monthly Mean Water Level 1978 – 2005 90 110 -AND SURFACE, IN FEET WATER LEVEL BELOW 130 150 170 190 2007 108<u>4</u> ′જ<u>ે</u> 100<u>e</u> 100<u>0</u> ,99<u>ō</u> 1918 ,98<sup>1</sup>



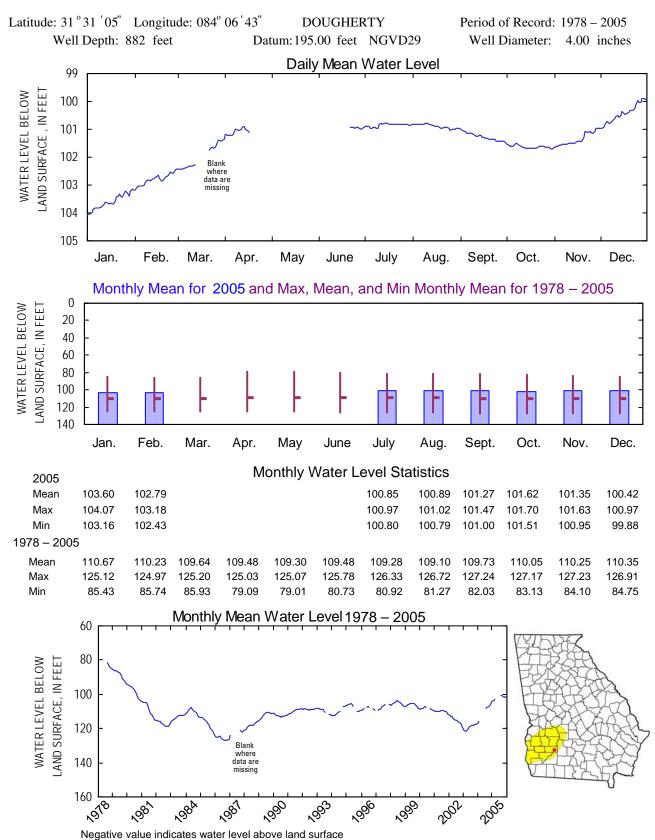
#### 313554084062501

Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 313105084064202

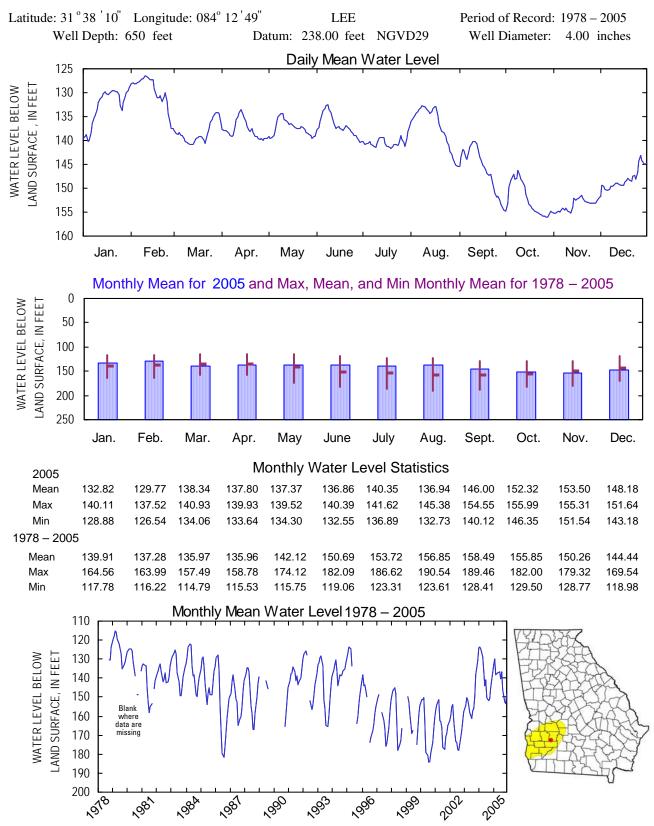




#### 313812084125001

Negative value indicates water level above land surface

Site Name: 12M002

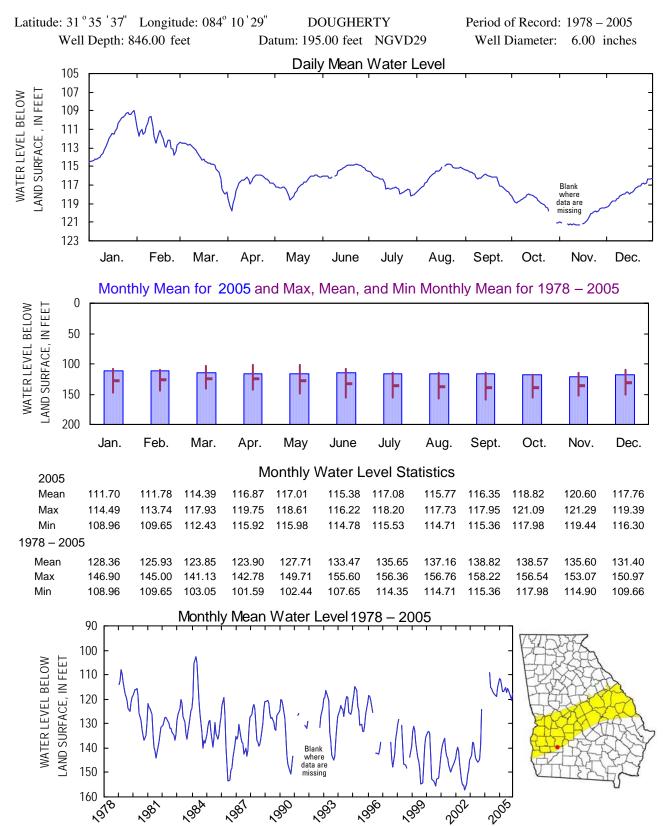




## Providence aquifer 2005 Calendar Year

#### 313534084103003

Negative value indicates water level above land surface

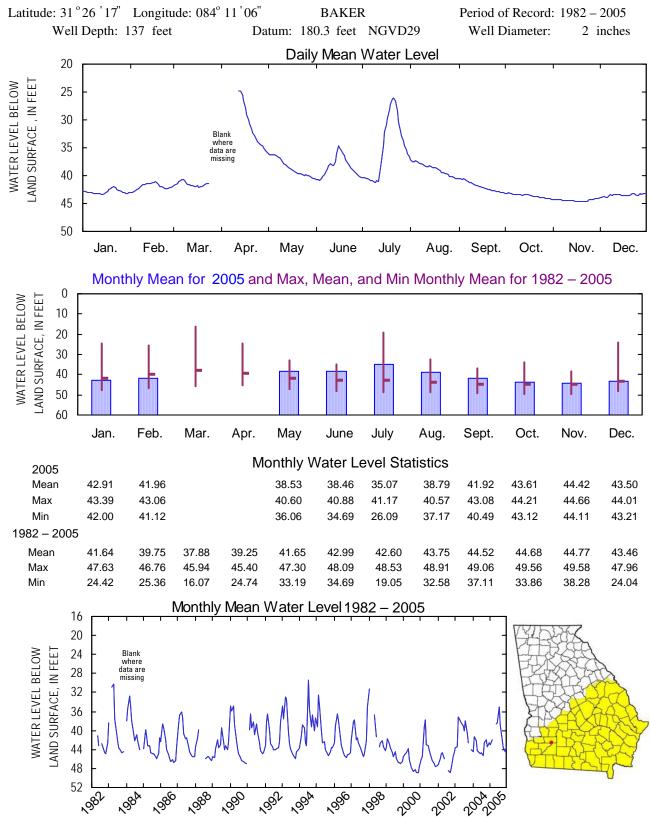




#### 312617084110701

Negative value indicates water level above land surface

Site Name: 12K014



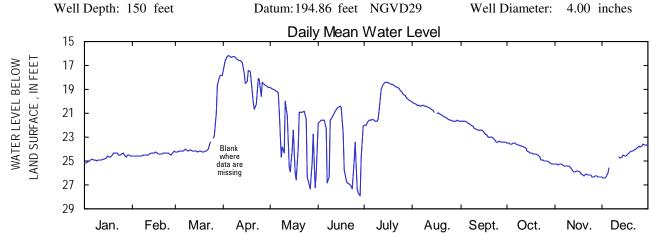


Latitude: 31°29 '14" Longitude: 084° 15 '30"

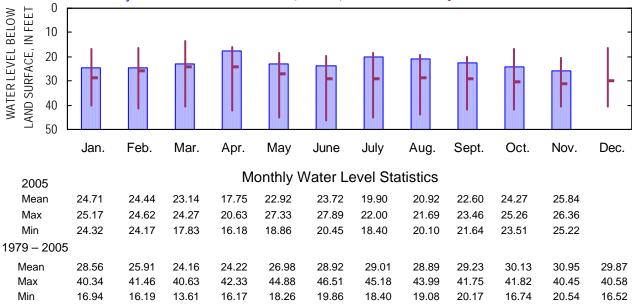
### Upper Floridan aquifer 2005 Calendar Year

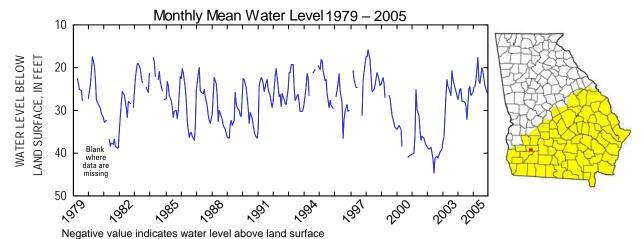
312919084153801

Site Name: 11K003 **DOUGHERTY** Period of Record: 1979 - 2005 Datum: 194.86 feet NGVD29 Well Diameter: 4.00 inches



Monthly Mean for 2005 and Max, Mean, and Min Monthly Mean for 1979 - 2005

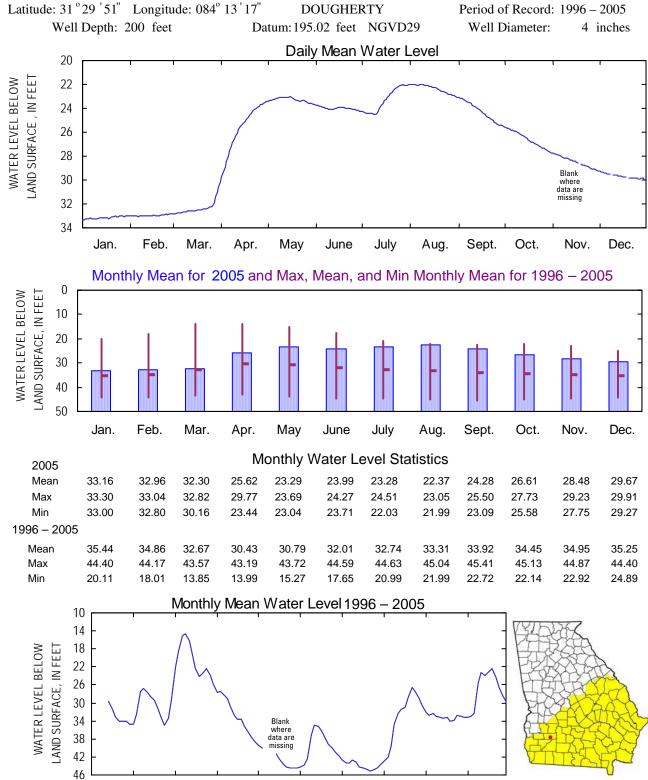






Negative value indicates water level above land surface

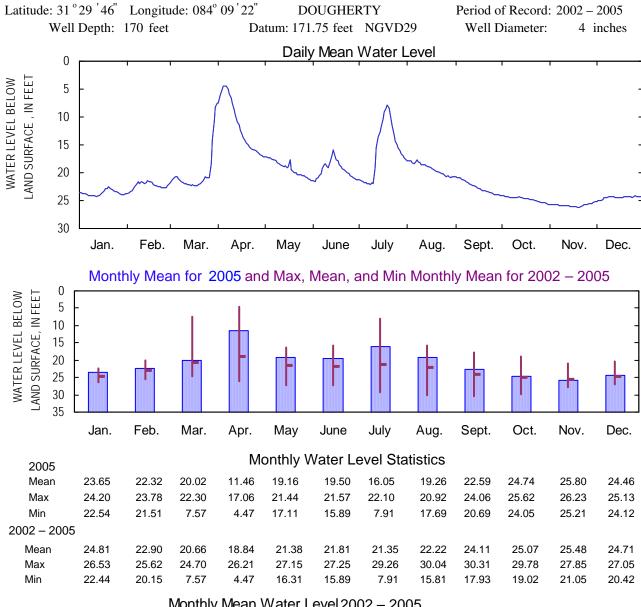
Site Name: 12K141

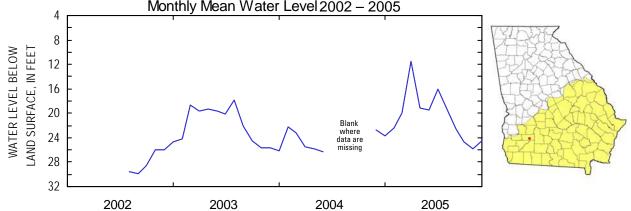




#### 312947084092201

Site Name: 12K180



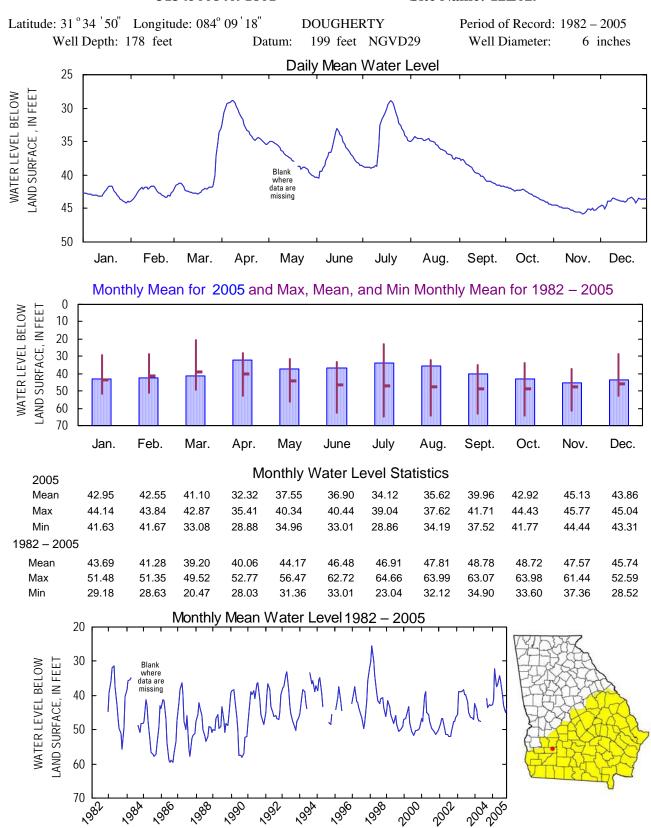


Negative value indicates water level above land surface



#### 313450084091801

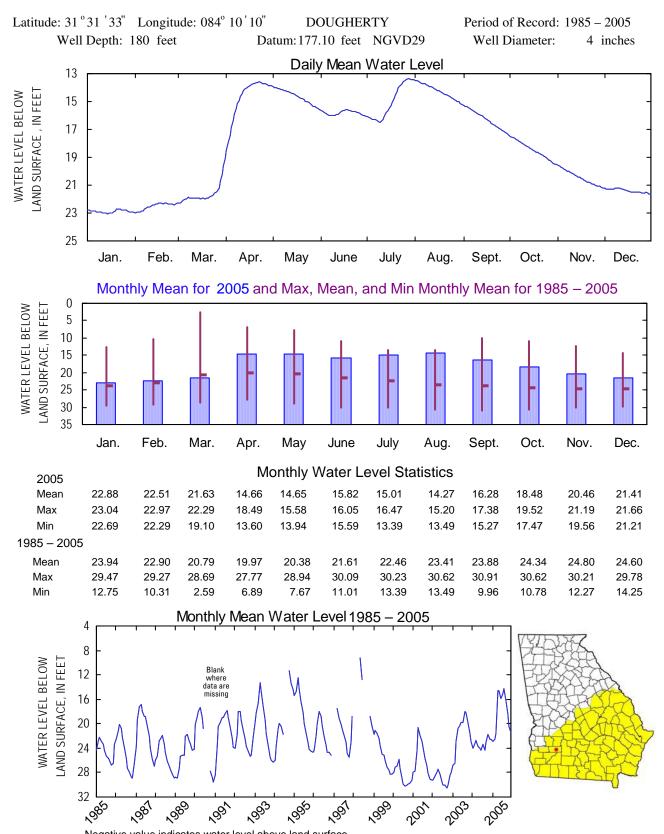
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 313130084101001

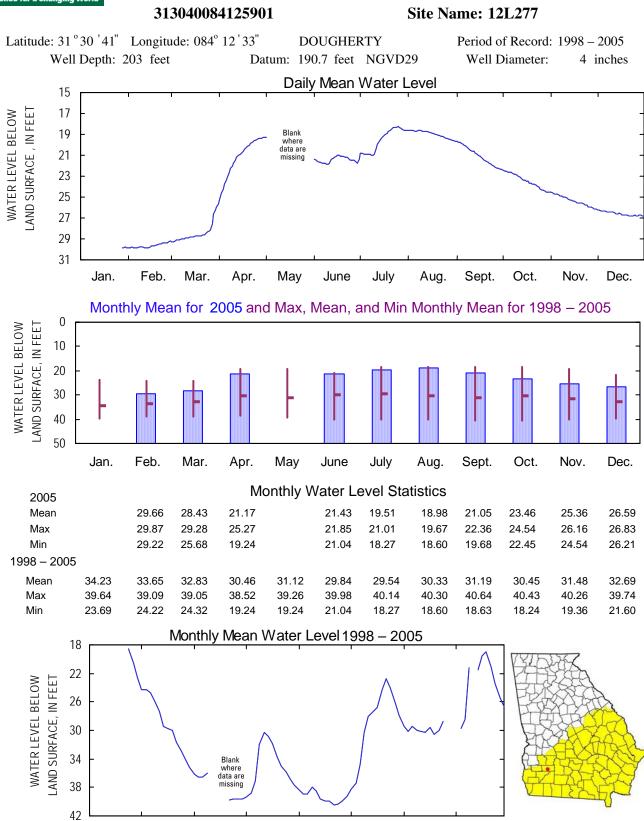
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





Negative value indicates water level above land surface

## Upper Floridan aquifer 2005 Calendar Year

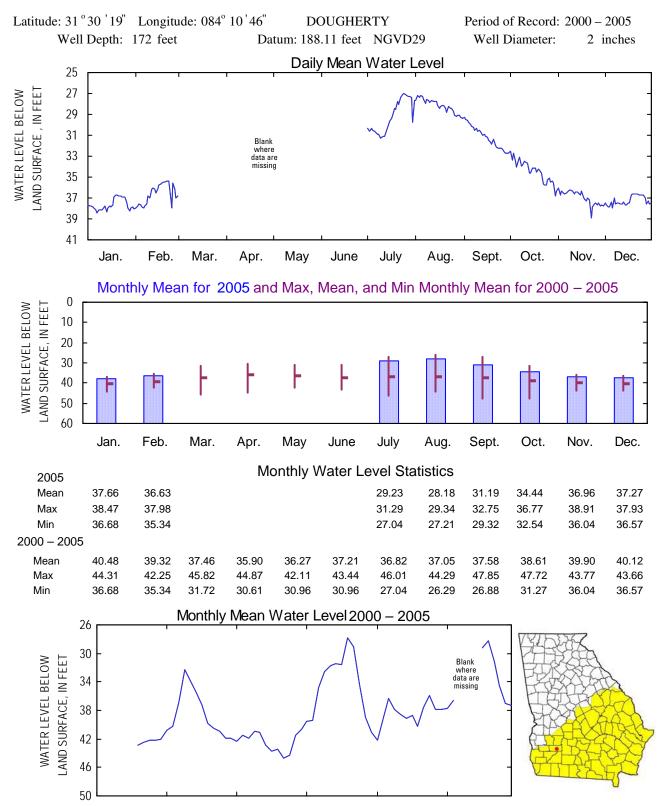




Negative value indicates water level above land surface

# Upper Floridan aquifer 2005 Calendar Year

#### 





#### 313000084100301

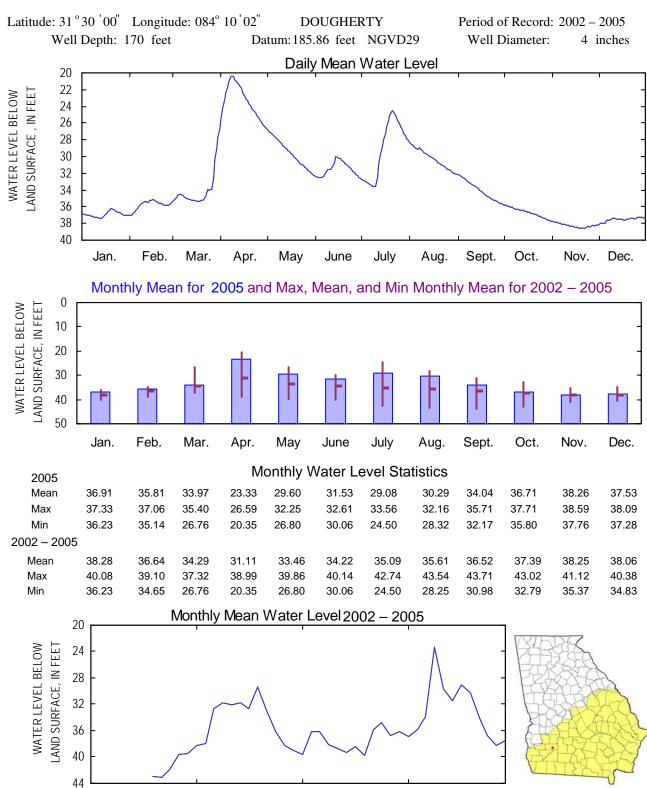
2002

2003

Negative value indicates water level above land surface

2004

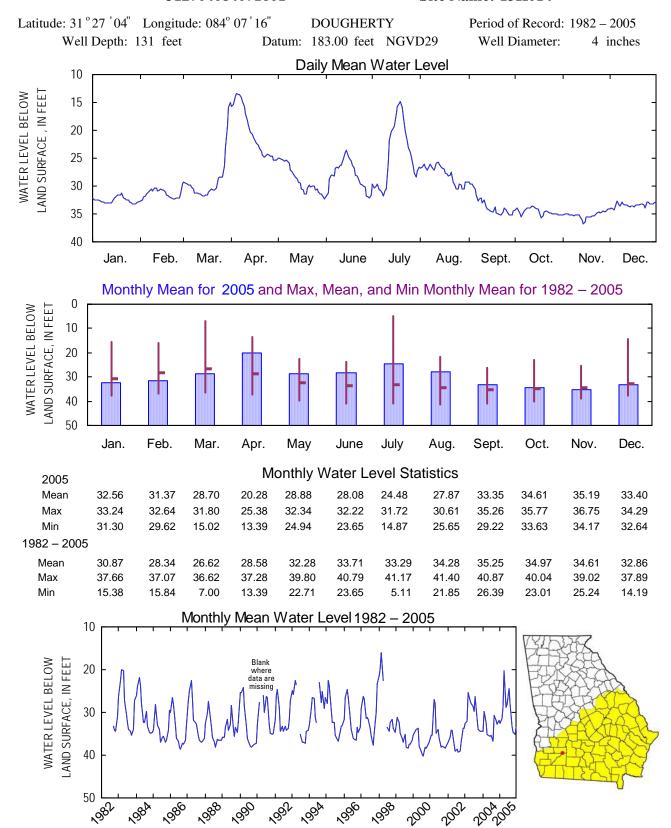
2005





#### 312704084071601

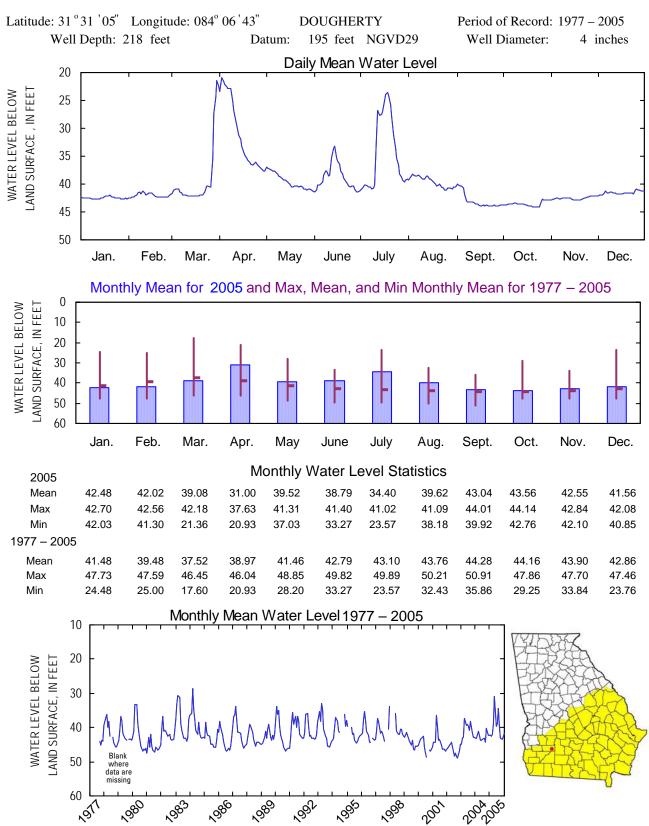
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 313105084064302

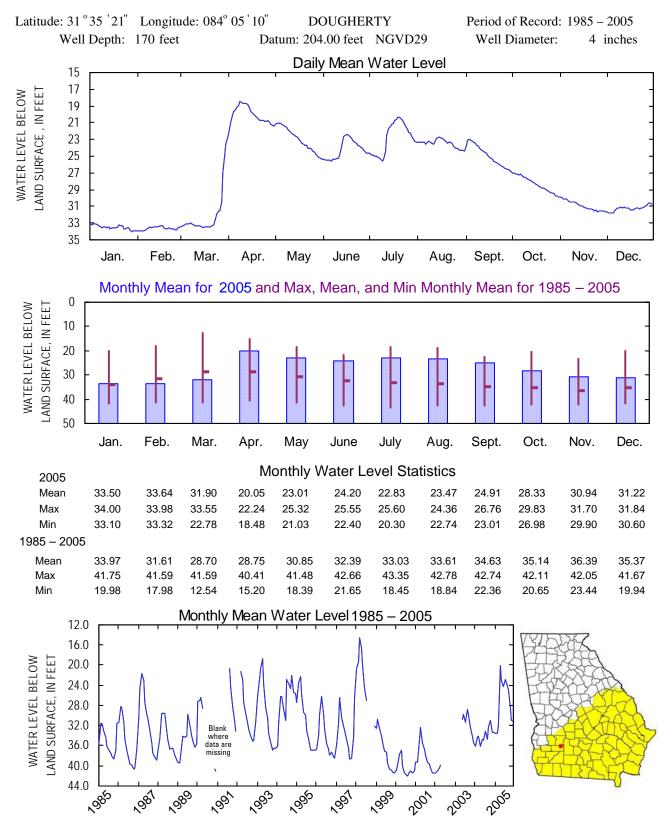
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 313521084051001

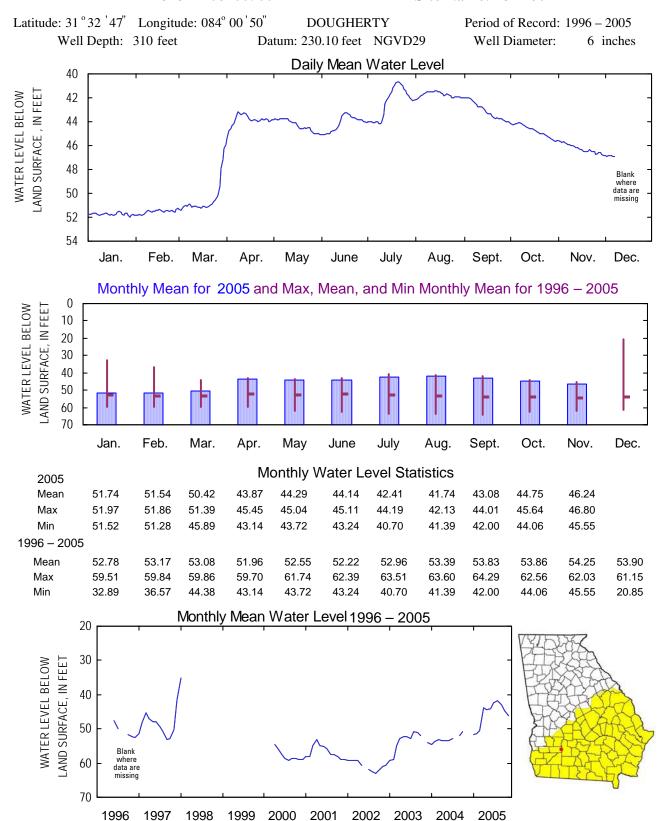
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 313247084005001

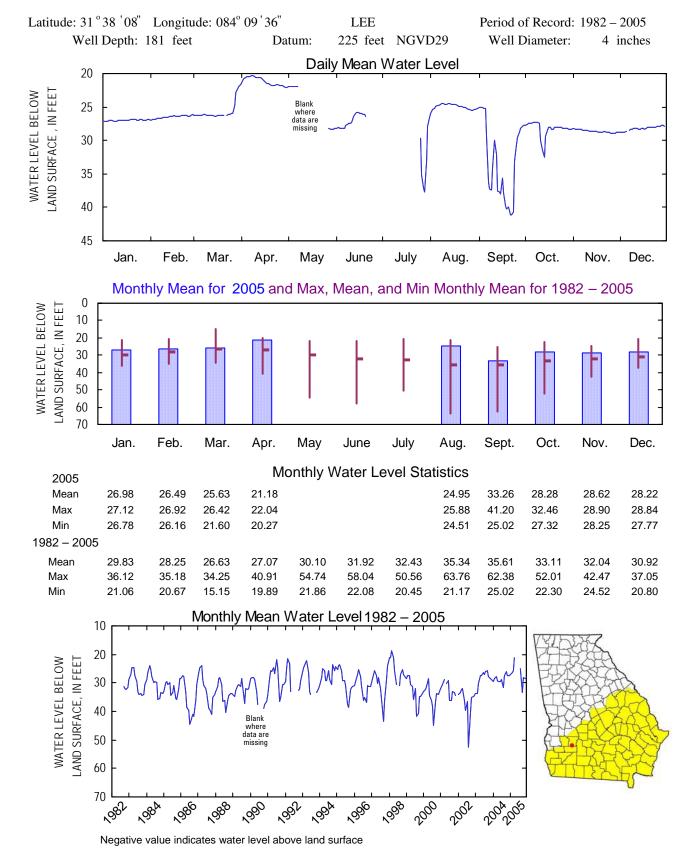
Negative value indicates water level above land surface





#### 313808084093601

Site Name: 12M017



Manuscript approved for publication, September 20, 2006
Prepared by USGS Georgia Water Science Center
Edited by Patricia L. Nobles
Graphics by Bonnie J. Turcott
For more information concerning the research in this report, contact
USGS Georgia Water Science Center, Atlanta,
telephone: 770-903-9100